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Summary record of the 23rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 29 November 2005, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Samy (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Egypt)

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In the absence of Mr. Yañez-Barnuevo (Spain), Mr. Samy (Egypt), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 108: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/C.6/60/L.12)

1. **Mr. Zyman** (Poland), introducing draft resolution A/C.6/60/L.12 entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism" on behalf of the Bureau, said that the many new elements in the resolution reflected the progress made on the item over the past year. The changes included new preambular paragraphs recalling the World Summit Outcome and reaffirming in particular the section on international terrorism, recalling Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) and welcoming initiatives to enhance interfaith and intercultural understanding.

2. A new paragraph 9 welcomed the adoption and opening for signature of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, noted a number of other anti-terrorism instruments and urged all States to consider, as a matter of priority, becoming parties to them. Paragraph 16 requested the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its efforts to assist States to become parties to and implement the relevant conventions.

3. Paragraph 17 welcomed the publication by the Secretariat of the second volume of *National Laws and Regulations on the Prevention and Suppression of International Terrorism*. Paragraph 19 requested the Secretary-General to submit proposals to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system to assist States in combating terrorism and enhance coordination of United Nations activities in that regard. Paragraph 26 welcomed any update by the Secretary-General of the comprehensive inventory of the response of the Secretariat to terrorism.

4. Paragraphs 20 to 25 concerned the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210, noting the progress attained in the elaboration of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, providing the mandate for the Ad Hoc Committee to continue that work and setting the dates for its meetings in 2006. As a sign of the commitment to make all efforts to fulfil the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee expeditiously, the resolution did not refer to a meeting of the Working Group of the Sixth Committee during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly. In the event of completion of a draft comprehensive convention the Ad Hoc Committee was requested to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session and in any case to report on progress to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

5. **Mr. Mikulka** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, in connection with the request contained in paragraph 19 of the draft resolution, the Committee's attention was drawn to paragraph 13 of the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of decisions from the 2005 World Summit Outcome for action by the Secretary-General (A/60/430) regarding the intention of the Secretary-General to submit proposals by early 2006.

6. In connection with the paragraphs concerning the Ad Hoc Committee, the conference servicing requirements for its proposed meetings in 2006 were already programmed in the draft calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2006-2007, so that if the draft resolution were adopted no additional resources would be required in the proposed programme budget.

7. *Draft resolution A/C.6/60/L.12 was adopted.*

Agenda item 116: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (A/C.6/60/L.16/Rev.1)

8. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft decision A/C.6/60/L.16/Rev.1, containing the Committee's provisional programme of work for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, as proposed by the Bureaux. It was based on the assumption that the items traditionally allocated to the Sixth Committee would be allocated to it in 2006 as well, without prejudice to allocation of any additional items to the Committee upon the recommendation of the General Committee.

9. **Mr. Diaz Paniagua** (Costa Rica) said that, although his delegation had no objection to the proposed programme of work, it was concerned that the Committee's list of agenda items seemed to grow shorter every year, while those of some of the other Main Committee's kept expanding. According to rule 98 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Sixth Committee was the Legal Committee, but many legal topics were being taken up by other Main Committees and the plenary General Assembly. In

annex II, part 2, paragraph 20, of the rules of procedure, it was mentioned that the General Committee, in making recommendations on the distribution of agenda items, would bear in mind the Sixth Committee's function as the Legal Committee, and in annex V, paragraph 30, a more balanced division of work among the Committees was recommended. Moreover, in annex II, part 1, paragraph 1 (d), the General Assembly recommended that when a Committee considered the legal aspects of a question important, it should refer it for legal advice to the Sixth Committee, and annex VII, paragraph 3, reiterated the point.

10. His delegation therefore requested that the Chairman should draw the attention of the President of the General Assembly to those provisions of the rules of procedure, so that, if the President thought it advisable, he might bring them to the attention of the General Committee. In addition, the Secretariat should be asked to send a copy of the provision and programme of work to the Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea with a reminder that overlap should be avoided.

11. The Committee was fortunate to enjoy the services of a specialized secretariat in the Codification Division. His delegation intended to express its positive opinion of those services on the survey being circulated and hoped that other delegations would do the same.

12. *Draft decision A/C.6/60/L.16/Rev.1 was adopted.*

Agenda item 5: Election of the officers of the Main Committees

13. **The Chairman** reminded the Committee that in accordance with rules 99 (a) and 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, as amended by General Assembly resolutions 56/509 and 58/126, the Main Committees should elect a Chairman and a full Bureau at least three months before the opening of the next session, and he urged the regional groups to hold their consultations in good time.

Completion of the Committee's work for the main part of the sixtieth session

14. After an exchange of courtesies, in which **Mr. Davis** (Bahamas), **Mr. Panggabean** (Indonesia), **Mr. Peesteen** (Belgium), **Mr. Bennouna** (Morocco) and **Mr. Zyman** (Poland) spoke on behalf of the regional groups of States, **the Chairman** declared that the Sixth Committee had completed its work for the main part of the sixtieth session.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.